

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

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FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 9588 ACTION SECSTATE, INFO LONDON, PARIS,
PRETORIA, USUN NEW YORK DTD 01 DEC 76.

QTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GENEVA 9588

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: REFUGEES FROM ANGOLA

REF: STATE 282337

1. MISSION HAS LEARNED FROM RESPONSIBLE UNHCR OFFICER THAT UNHCR IS UNABLE AT PRESENT TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE DIRECTLY TO REFUGEES FROM ANGOLA IN NORTHERN SOUTHWEST AFRICA (NAMIBIA). HE REFERRED TO SECRETARY-GENERAL'S LETTER OF NOV. 23 TO SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER, IN RESPONSE TO LATTER'S LETTER OF NOV. 12, WHICH, IN EFFECT, STATED THAT UN COULD NOT DEAL WITH SAG TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES IN NAMIBIAN CAMPS IN VIEW OF WOUTH AFRICA'S ILLEGAL STATUS THERE.

2. UNHCR OFFICER SAID HIS ORGANIZATION WAS IN TOUCH WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC) TO EXPLORE MEANS OF CHANNELING UN ASSISTANCE TO THESE REFUGEES THROUGH THE ICRC. HOWEVER, THIS EFFORT IS NOEW ENCOUNTERING DIFFICULTY SINCE, ALTHOUGH IT WAS CLEARED WITH OAU REPRESENTATIVE PETER ONU IN NEW
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YORK, THE ICRC HAS RECENTLY BEEN TARGET OF HEAVILY

CRITICAL LETTER FROM HEAD OF SWAPO. IN THIS CIRCUMSTANCE, ICRC IS HESITANT TO PROCEED WITH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO ANGOLAN REFUGEES IN NAMIBIA.

3. UNHCR REP ALSO REPORTED THAT THE ONLY INFORMATION THEY HAVE RECEIVED ON CURRENT SITUATION IS FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT, AND THAT NO OTHER PARTIES, INCLUDING THE SOUTH AFRICAN RED CROSS, HAVE REPORTED ON THE SITUATION THERE SINCE AN ICRC REP VISITED THE AREA IN APRIL.

4. ON THE OTHER HAND, UNHCR REP SAID, HIS ORGANIZATION IS CURRENTLY INVOLVED WITH 700 ANGOLAN REFUGEES IN ZAMBIA, 110 IN BOTSWANA, AND IS NOW LOOKING INTO QUESTION OF 12,000 WHO HAVE ARRIVED RECENTLY IN SHABA PROVINCE (EX KATANGA), ZAIRE. CATTO
BUNQTE: KISSINGER

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